



## AT A GLANCE

**Advocacy**  
AICCU represents California independent colleges and universities in legislative and other state government arenas.

**Finance**  
AICCU provides joint financial services that help member institutions manage costs.

**Research**  
AICCU collects, analyzes, and disseminates research to inform public policy discussions and our members.

**Support**  
AICCU convenes key campus personnel to work on common issues and professional development.

**Admission**  
AICCU distributes a guide to high school and college counseling offices and manages a recruitment website.

## Serving California

In 1851, the first independent colleges and universities in California were established. By 1864, when the University of California opened its first campus, the independents had already been making vital contributions to the state for more than a dozen years.

Today, there are more than seventy-five (75) WASC accredited, degree granting, non-profit independent colleges and universities serving California.

As a group, independent colleges and universities provide diversity in size, location, types of students served, and many other ways. They emphasize teaching and learning, and focus on the individual student.

The independent sector is not a system like the University of California or the California State University. In addition to the rich variety of institutions, the sector is characterized by institutional autonomy, healthy competition, and cooperation.

The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) was founded in 1955 to speak with one voice for the independent sector in matters of public policy. AICCU was a principal architect of California's student financial aid program. AICCU also assists members by offering college

admission information. Cost saving programs, research, and management support. Membership is voluntary.

AICCU members include:

- internationally recognized research universities,
- nationally ranked colleges and universities,
- specialty colleges focusing on a particular area, like nursing or the arts,
- free-standing graduate schools in areas as diverse as biotechnology and psychology, and
- a variety of faith-based schools.

### A Resource ...

- AICCU members enroll close to 240,000 students—as a group we're larger than the University of California.
- Forty-three percent (43%) of AICCU students are African American, Asian, Hispanic, or Native American.
- Students in AICCU schools graduate at higher percentages and in less time than students in comparable public systems.
- AICCU members award nearly one-fourth of the bachelors, almost half of the masters and doctorates, and two-thirds of the professional degrees in California.
- In every profession serving the state, the independents educate a substantial proportion. For example, we educate 41% of the teachers, 35% of the nurses, and 81% of the pharmacists.

- AICCU members' growth in enrollment over the last ten years is equal to the total combined student bodies at UCLA and CSU Los Angeles—growth that was funded without any direct cost to the state.

With demand for higher education expected to grow significantly, the contributions of the independent sector are more vital than ever.

### ... and A Real Value

Independent colleges receive no direct state support; their only source of state funding is Cal Grants given to undergraduate students—less than 2% of what the state spends on higher education. AICCU members provide non-taxpayer funded higher educational opportunities to California.

For every Cal Grant dollar received by students attending AICCU schools, more than \$4 dollars of institutionally raised financial aid is given to students by AICCU members.

For every Cal Grant recipient who attends an AICCU member school, four more California students are educated by an AICCU college or university at no cost to the state.

By any measure, AICCU members serve California.

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## SERVICES AND SUPPORT

### Advocacy —

AICCU successfully advocated for the creation of what came to be the Cal Grant program. Created in 1955, Cal Grant has enabled more than 750,000 students to attend independent colleges and universities. We've also worked to assure that State Legislators recognize the contributions of the sector.

AICCU is the voice of its members at the California Higher Education Roundtable and its operating arm, the Intersegmental Coordination Council. AICCU also represents the sector before less visible governmental entities, including the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC), and California Student Aid Commission (CSAC).

### Finance —

AICCU's joint financial services offer member savings in key areas.

### Student Loan Collections

AICCU offers a program to its members to collect defaulted federally guaranteed campus based loans.

### Software

AICCU members are able to purchase software at special pricing, including Microsoft and Adobe.

### Products and Services

AICCU members are able to purchase institutional products (like paper supplies, custodial services and institutional and facilities management technology) at substantial discounts.

### Insurance

AICCU offers pooled insurance programs, including coverage for employee benefits and group rates for auto and home.

### Research —

Understanding the depth and breadth of the sector is critical to advocacy for the sector. Thus, we created two kinds of research.

### External Research

AICCU collects, analyzes, and disseminates research on the independent sector, including assessments of their financial condition and member success in enrolling and graduating a diverse student body.

### Internal Research

AICCU conducts periodic surveys to establish comparative data for members, including an annual salary survey.

### Support —

AICCU convenes professional meetings of key campus personnel, which serve to inform members of "best practices" and enable them to work on common problems. The key personnel convened include:

- Admission and Financial Aid Directors
- Education and Nursing Deans
- Human Resources Directors
- Information Technology Officers
- Government Relations Directors

### Admission —

AICCU publishes and distributes the *Guide to California Independent Colleges and Universities* to high school and community college counseling offices in both print and digital formats.

AICCU also works to increase visibility of its members through a presence on [California-Colleges.edu](http://California-Colleges.edu), hosted by the California Higher Education Roundtable.

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